

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Ronesi for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on May 16, 2005. During this discussion it was noted that one way to distinguish over Matsushita, Gosselink et al, Yamamori et al, Carolla et al, and Misawa et al is to define the organic compound as the polymers, copolymers or oligomers which have a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon skeleton and at least one carboxyl group as set forth on page 45, lines 9-14 of the specification. The Examiner agreed that such amendment would distinguish the claims over the currently cited prior art references. See the Interview Summary. Accordingly, Claim 26 has been amended as discussed. New Claims 51-60 have been added. Thus, the rejections over Matsushita, Gosselink et al, Yamamori et al, Carolla, and Misawa et al, alone or in combination, should be withdrawn.

Further, during the above discussion, the Examiner cited Madoux et al (U.S. 5,786,127) as being of interest for the claims as amended.

The objection to Claim 27 (not 26 as erroneously stated in the Office Action) is obviated by the amendment of Claim 27.

Finally, Applicants note that MPEP §821.04 states, "if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined." Applicants respectfully submit that should the elected group be found allowable, the non-elected claims should be rejoined.

With respect to the elected species, Applicants respectfully submit that, should the elected species be found allowable, the Office should expand its search to the non-elected species.

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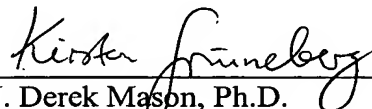
Reply to the Office Action dated: February 24, 2005

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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